

## Colorado Office of Behavioral Health

# Involuntary Mental Health Treatment

When an individual appears to have a mental health disorder and presents an imminent danger to themselves or others, **they may be detained for a 72-hour evaluation and treatment (M-1)**. This involuntary mental health treatment process is outlined in **Colorado Revised Statute 27-65-105 through 109**.

## Mental Health Hold Process

### Initial Custody

An individual is placed on a hold (M-1 or M-3) by an intervening professional or by the court system for **no longer than 72 hours**.



### Evaluation

An evaluation must take place within 72 hours. **If the individual needs no further treatment, they are released.**



### Further Treatment

If the individual needs and accepts further treatment, they are referred to **voluntary treatment**. If they do not accept, **the court-ordered short-term certification process begins**.



### Short-Term Involuntary Treatment

**Certification for Short-Term Treatment (M-8):** The court requires the individual to receive treatment in a designated facility for no longer than three months.

**Extended Short-Term Certification (M-11):** Treatment cannot exceed three additional months following the initial short-term certification.



### Long-Term Involuntary Treatment

**Certification for Long-Term Care and Treatment (M-12 Petition; M-13 Order):** Treatment in a designated facility cannot exceed six months.

**Extended Long-Term Certification (M-14 Petition; M-16 Order):** Treatment cannot exceed six additional months following the initial long-term certification.



**Note:** At any point in the process, the individual may accept voluntary treatment or be released.

## For More Information

Visit [cdhs.colorado.gov/behavioral-health/involuntary-mental-health-treatment](https://cdhs.colorado.gov/behavioral-health/involuntary-mental-health-treatment)